

March 1980



THE HARVEST

Macdonald College

Royal Reappraisal

There will probably be no Fall Royal next year, but only a ploughing match. At an evaluation meeting of the Royal this year, Randy Goodfellow, the Royal chairman said that the effort that went into organizing the Fall Royal was not made worthwhile by participation.

However, the Royal this term was thought by the committee to be a big success despite the relatively small number that came to see it from outside. Next year, the publicity campaign will be started earlier with greater concentration on high schools and specialist magazines.

The Royal never really got its official opening. The scottish bagpiper was never found and the highland dancer had a twisted ankle! For closing ceremonies, Randy suggested that a banquet should be held. Awards could be given out at this time, but no livestock trophies, as the Livestock Club would like to keep the show separate from the Royal.

Apart from the lack of food in the building, the Royal overall suffered from too much of a good thing. The posters and arrows all over the building confused people, there were too many social events, leading to a poor attendance at some. The I.S.A. dance on the night of the Café Royal was a bad conflict.

No one reported on conferences, but there were a lot of them, some with poor attendance and in addition Ecolifestyles and Food Science Dept. had taken the opportunity to show films throughout the day. Randy suggested there be a lot fewer conferences, but this was not completely agreed upon.

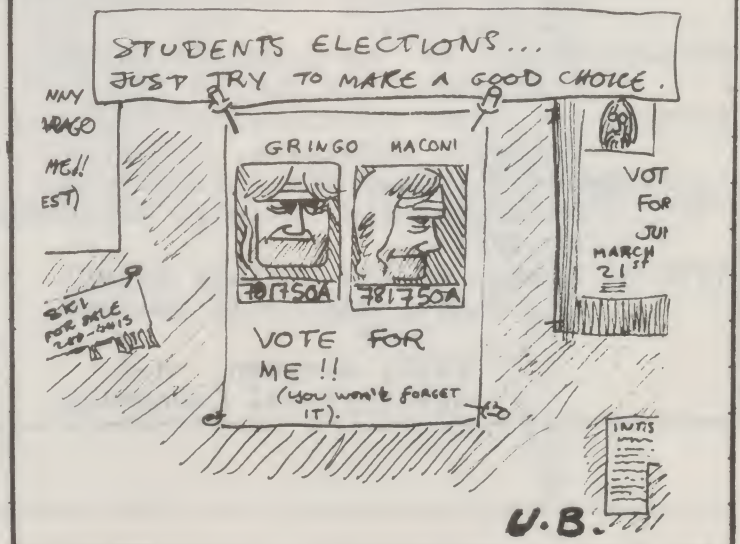
The Royal Committee this year was: Randy Goodfellow, Chairman; Gerald Post, Vice-Chairman; Leslie Thompson, Displays;

Catty Airth, Publicity; Laurent Gauthier Publicity; Claude Gascon, Treasurer; Teri Zabek, Secretary; Graham Drake, Publicity; and Linda Weightman, Entertainment.

Elections

Inside: Election platforms.

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CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER

Denise Brulé

Hello, my name is Denise Brulé and I have been nominated for the position of treasurer of Students' Council.

I have served on both FSUS and Students' Council as the FSUS representative for one and a half years. I have been president of the 'Class of '81' in both first and second years.

During this time I have shown my willingness to work by:

- organizing, running and being treasurer for the Gathering of the Clan 1979.
- preparing and printing the student telephone directory of 1979-1980.
- being in charge of the Winter Carnival Ski Day supper
- being a member of the course evaluation sub-committee.
- and much more.

I have shown that I listen to other students' complaints by bringing such problems as supplemental exams to the council this year.

I am willing to work hard this coming year to see the council operates for the benefits of all students.

In closing, I would like to mention that I have taken a university accounting course.

Thankyou for your support.

Bonjour. Je m'appelle Denise Brulé et je suis en nomination pour la position de trésorier du conseil étudiant.

J'ai été membre de l'exécutif du FSUS et sa représentante au CE pendant un an et demi. J'ai été présidente de la 'Classe '81' durant ma première et deuxième année.

Pendant ce temps, j'ai démontré ma volonté de travailler en:

- préparer et imprimer l'annuaire téléphonique étudiant 1979-1980
- étant responsable du souper de la journée de ski du carnaval d'hiver
- étant membre du sous-comité d'évaluation des cours
- etc.

En soumettant au CE les problèmes tel celui des examens supplémentaires, j'ai démontré mon intérêt aux problèmes des étudiants.

J'ai l'intention de travailler avec acharnement cette année pour le bénéfice de tous les étudiants.

En terminant, je voudrais mentionner que j'ai suivi (et réussi!) un cours universitaire en comptabilité.

Merci pour votre appui.

Kathy MacLean

Have you ever wondered what your student fees are being used for? Has anyone taken the time to explain it to you?

My name is Kathy MacLean and I am running for the position of Treasurer on the 1980-81 Student's Council. I feel that this job requires a lot of hard work, dedication and conscientiousness.

If elected on March 21, I will do my upmost to make this position work in the best interests of all students.

EXPERIENCE:

1975-77-Secretary Treasurer for the New-castle Junior Curling Club, New-castle, N.B.

1977-78-Member of the Winter Carnival Committee, N.S.A.C.

1978-79-Secretary Treasurer of the Orientation Committee, N.S.A.C.

1979-80-Secretary of the Agricultural Undergraduate Society, Macdonald College

1979-80-Member of the College Royal Committee, Macdonald College

Kathy MacLean U-2
Agricultural Economics

La charité pour la parité?

Le vendredi 29 février dernier, dans le cadre de la Royale 1980, avait lieu la 'Journée sur la développement international'. Malheureusement les conférences, les films et le débat organisés par des étudiants pour cette journée n'ont pas trouvé un auditoire très nombreux. Cela n'incombe certes pas à leur qualité pourtant, car celle-ci ne manquait pas.

Le premier exposé, celui d'un représentant d'Oxfam, n'a semblé impressionner personne. L'invité avait dû oublier qu'il s'adressait à des gens pas mal sensibilisés au 'sujet', qui ne désiraient pas vraiment le suivre dans saon 'trip' missionnaire.

Par contre, l'exposé de Euclide Chiasson, (coopérant de SUCO) au début de l'après-midi fut des plus détendus et enrichissant. Des patates de Nouveau Brunswick à celles de la Bolivie on a pu suivre l'expérience de ce monsieur avec deux communautés agricoles a priori fort différentes. Pourtant, grâce à un programme d'échange, elles ont pu mettre en commun leur savoir respectif.

Ce fut l'occasion bien sûr pour certains de constater qu'il y avait ici de bien belles machines très efficaces, et pour les autres de se faire demander si celles-ci leur appartenaient vraiment. Il faut bien admettre que les compagnies de finance en possèdent au moins autant que les producteurs.

Morale de cette histoire: celui qui a le plus à gagner dans l'échange avec les pays dits en voie de développement n'est peut-être pas celui qu'on pense. Du point de vue conscience sociale entre autres, on a probablement plus à apprendre qu'à montrer. Notre contribution possible au développement se situe davantage au niveau aide technique mais celle-ci ne doit pas engendrer de dépendance. Tel est le cas par exemple avec l'introduction des engrais chimiques pour lesquels un pays comme la Bolivie devra toujours dépendre de l'extérieure. S'agit-il d'un Progrès?

Au cours du reste de l'après-midi on a entendu parler de l'ACDI par Ali Shady, collaborateur à un projet de drainage. Puis, suivant la projection du film 'La Chine', de l'ONF, le professeur Noumoff de l'Université McGill est venu

raconté l'évolution des coopératives agricoles chinoises vers leur forme actuelle. Exposé intéressant, bien qu'un peu complexe.

Avec la fin des cours- le cours de 'Comparative Agriculture', entre autres, n'a même pas été annulé pour cette journée-là, Oh, ironie!- avec la fin des cours donc, l'auditoire a plus que triplé par la suite pour le débat regroupement des membres de l'ACDI, de SUCO et du ministère des affaires intergouvernementales du Québec. Le représentant de chaque organisme y est allé d'abord de la présentation du fonctionnement, des buts, des moyens d'action de celui-ci.

L'ACDI s'est trouvée quelque peu- pour ne pas dire un peu plus- la cible de bon nombre d'interventions. A savoir dans quelle mesure l'aide du Canada au Tiers-Monde est une aide désintéressée, on apprend par exemple que pour les gens de l'ACDI- l'organisme gouvernemental- elle ne saurait être dissociée d'une éventuelle coopération économique. On vient au secours de celui qui pourra offrir quelque chose en échange! Voire même un appui politique en temps opportun a semblé insinuer le représentant du gouvernement du Québec.

Quoiqu'il en soit, la question de l'aide au Tiers-Monde suscitera toujours un certain nombre de controverses. Elle ne pèse pas lourd en termes de nombre de votes (pourquoi?) et n'est par conséquent pas une priorité pour les gouvernements de pays riches. Par les temps qui courent ils ont trop à faire avec la défense nationale, ou, plus près de nous, la défense de l'unité nationale. Et nous on a des cours qu'on ne peut pas manquer pour ça!

Andrée Deschênes.



Editorial

The Student's society this year has experienced some interesting moments, against the background of tedious boredom.

Council meetings were characterised by a lack of preparation, leading to straying discussion, as well as nit-picking on budget presentations. Pierre Fortin was largely responsible for the latter.

Dissatisfaction with the way things were going led to a review of the constitution by Laurent Gauthier and others, who concluded that the present council structure is workable, but that budgets discussed and already approved should not be gone through in such detail in council meetings. Gauthier also saw no reason to merge the CC committee and the council into one. There is still some debate on this point due to the CC committee preventing the Lunch Bar from operating this term.

The conditions in Brittain Hall led to John Abbott Student Union calling in the media. If anyone had been watching it would have seemed as if our council didn't know what was happening on campus. However, the incident has been useful in increasing Mac-Jac liason at the student

council level.

Linked with the Lunch Bar issue is the power of 'permanent staff', meaning Mrs. Vauthier, and her conflict with student interests.

Mrs. Vauthier is paid half by the CC, of which she is the Manager, and half by the Student's Society, of which she is permanent Secretary-Treasurer. The CC has asked for, and obtained, her job description from her, and has discussed it at a couple of meetings.

The big step for the CC committee, of course, was the decision to build the new bar, at a cost of \$130,000. It will be finished in three weeks. The other big thing was the conflict over the lunch bar. The committee now has to decide what to do with the vacant space downstairs when the bar moves.

The council has also been trying to get more attention from McGill, and has managed to get a couple of meetings, (Board of Governors, Student Services) held on campus. Under the auspices of the student's council, other clubs and societies have been functioning well, and funding of them has not been a problem.

Football Dying

The Student Lunch Bar became a political football this term, as the CC committee and the Students' Council fought with each other to decide the fate of the organization.

The CC committee decided to review the status of the Lunch Bar after the Health Department found it dirty at the end of last semester.

As reported earlier this term, the Lunch Bar was told to hire someone to make sure the servery was clean after each day's operation, and to pay \$200 a month in rent.

Upset with the decision, last term's organizers of the Lunch Bar, John Collins and Mike Loeffler circulated a petition calling for the Lunch Bar to retain its old status. However, the petition called for a referendum to achieve this, rather than an Open Students' Society meeting.

However, the Lunch Bar representatives met with the student council executive, and, although some executive members were unhappy with the meeting, they

recommended that the CC withdraw their motion.

A major factor in the CC decision to charge the Lunch Bar rent, was that they thought that the Lunch Bar had made a profit last term. In fact they made a loss of one hundred dollars. The confusion was started by the Lunch Bar themselves. They had \$900 in January, but February bills left them with \$400, less than they started out with.

This piece of news did not get through to the CC committee, and they decided to uphold their decision. Last week the council over-ruled the CC committee.

Meanwhile, Claude Beauvais, who had been willing, at the beginning of the term, to coordinate the Lunch Bar, said he had too much work to do in the middle of the semester to start up the operation.

The way now seems clear for the Lunch Bar to operate under the old terms next year, but in the meantime students have been without the good food the Lunch Bar provides.

CANDIDATES FOR EXTERAL V.P.

Gerald Post

When was the last time someone said to you, "Hey, I know where that is," in response to the statement that you were from Macdonald College? Can't remember? I want to change that.

I want to put Mac on the map through greater contact with all other colleges and the industry. Backed by the experience of having attended other colleges and having done extensive public relations and co-ordination work in the 4-H program, I am in a position to get contacts with the industry and our own peers, and let them know we're here.

I believe Macdonald College would benefit greatly by more contact with other colleges in our field, and perhaps more importantly, downtown McGill. Competition or comparisons between schools brings out elements of pride which students have successfully hidden in the past. If we can bring forward that Macdonald pride perhaps we can stir up some real school spirit, something which lacks from time to time.

Responsible student government and direction by the council can re-create some of the old school spirit, the spirit of Macdonald, and get the majority of students involved in activities both on and off the campus. Thus

Macdonald College will be known and recognized as it should be; by the industry and by its students and potential students as well.

Gerald Post, Candidate for External V-P

Jon Waterhouse

I must be insane. Leave me alone for a couple of days and I go out and get a nomination sheet signed. I thought I had the disease beaten. A sense of humour to prevent myself from being consumed by the illness in its worst form; a wicked temper, passionate altruism caused by even more passionate self-interest, bags under the eyes and persecution mania; muttering about pride in everything conceivable in one's sleep.

I really don't know why I got that sheet signed; maybe because the guy in the next room has some form of the disease and passed it on.

Not that I wouldn't do a good job. I've made lots of mistakes to learn from, and have written about other people's in student newspapers for three years. I hate bullshit and boring meetings.

No election promises, but Mac-JAC and Mac-McGill relations are a priority.

Did I really write this?

Jon Waterhouse, Candidate for External V-P

Building Technology

The biotechnological revolution will surpass the micro-electronic revolution, says Dr. Slotin of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology. Speaking at Macdonald College on Thursday, Slotin predicted a rise in demand for biologists as Canada begins to utilize applied biology to exploit more fully the resources of the land and sea.

Biotechnology is the development of living organisms to produce things for man as machines have done in the past. Slotin suggests alcohol fuel will increase in importance and the biological processes involved will have to be controlled in order to obtain maximum production. The more efficient use of farm biomass will mean more stable farm incomes.

Water will also be of concern to the biologists in Canada's future. Canada

will become an exporter of fresh water. To cope with the present problems of effluents and acid rain, technological and biotechnological methods of control will have to be developed.

Other areas in which biotechnology will take a hand are the production of pharmaceuticals, pollution control, including oil spills, breeding plants that can fix nitrogen and use of microbial activity in mining.

Slotin sees an increase in the job prospects for biology graduates over and above the greater demand caused by the 200-mile fishing limit. The ministry is now drawing up a rational program for biotechnology.

The program will have most impact on universities. Industries are insulated from government programs by their economic goals.

DAVID VAN SETERS

Students of Macdonald campus,

I would like to take this opportunity to explain my platform as a candidate for the position of president of the Macdonald Student's Society. I have no wish to expound on vast campaign promises, but would rather like to give you a general overview of what I will try to do if elected.

At the beginning of the semester I became involved in the organization of two events in the Winter Carnival, and through this experience became aware of certain problems facing the various committees. Further involvement with the Mac Film Society and the College Royal since that time has led me to believe there are three main areas which need to be stressed in the future: Organization, communication and participation.

Concerning organization, it is imperative that more advance planning be done in the future to ensure the smooth running of the various activities; especially orientation, the Winter Carnival, and the College Royal. Also there should be an increased transfer of ideas and information within the committees, which brings me to my second point, communication. Communication must be improved not only within the committees, but between the committees. Furthermore, it should be improved between the student council and downtown McGill, John Abbott, the Macdonald staff, other universities, and just as importantly, the students.

As for participation, it is the most important item of all, because without it the need for communication and organization do not arise. I will encourage this as much as possible, but for the most part it is up to you. Come out and help organize the events, or just come out and watch them, because the more you students participate, the more willing the student council will be to accept new ideas and activities.

I feel strongly that what our campus needs is to stick to the basics by attempting to solve such problems as those mentioned above, that exist now, and to further those plans that have already been initiated by the present student's

council. Keeping this in mind, I would like to look at the practicality of such things as increased hours at the bar (perhaps even in the daytime), a permanent off-campus housing service, use of the Centre Multifonctionnel at John Abbott, an enhancement of the lounge, a study lounge in the Barton basement, a second-hand bookstore, efficient use of the Bar-Disco space once the new bar is in operation, and the monitoring of the renovations in Laird Hall, among other things.

For those of you who have not decided on which candidate you would like to vote for, I would urge you to approach me and question my views on the areas which concern you. I feel that I have to offer what this campus needs in terms of a strong president for next year, so give me the chance to prove it to you!

In conclusion I would like to say to all you students, whoever you decide to vote for; take the matter seriously and really give it some thought. After all it is only in your best interest because it will all be for you in the long run.

Yours very truly,

David Van Seters, Candidate for Pres.

Presidential

KAZI ABDUL MUKTADIR

Manifesto of Kazi Abdul Muktadir, candidate for president of students' Council.

1) To bring about constitutional changes which will streamline the day-to-day working of the Students' Council in order to curb the red tape and bureaucracy that exists.

2) To strengthen and support the students to voice their opinions on matters concerning them and their life on campus.

3) To look into the housing problems and try to come up with a permanent solution for on-campus and off-campus housing.

4) To bridge the gap between the council and the student body by activating personal links and contacts between the two.

5) To prepare and support more student activities which conform to the desires and needs of the students, and to break the monotony of the stereotype events.

6) To boost student oriented activities and to provide extra support to regular and active student groups like Ecolife-styles, the Food Coop, Food Coop Market, Film Society etc.

7) To create better facilities at the Centennial Centre for Macdonald's students (indoor games, ping pong..etc) which should serve as a student haven.

8) To try to obtain facilities of John Abbott College, like the CMF, and to create a liason between SUJAC and the Students' Council.

9) To urge the Administration to provide better facilities and services, like furniture and drapes in the vending machine room, an extra photocopier in the library, etc.

10) To urge the vending machine contract ot to provide better food and services for the machines.

11) To help in solving foreign students' problems, and to promote understanding among, and activities between the Canadian and foreign students.

I have been in the past:

-Senate rep. of Students' Council

-Macdonald College rep. on the committee to review foreign students' insurance policy.

-President Moslim Students' Association Macdonald College.

Chairman, membership affairs committee, MCO Montreal

- CHAIRMAN, literary and debating society Karachi University

-Executive member of Epsilon circle, Karachi University

12) To hold the office of president with responsibility and dedication to serve the students in the best way.

To help me achieve the aims and objectives of this manifesto, and to allow me to be of service to my fellow students I need your cooperation and willingness to help. This could be done by supporting these objectives and voicing them to your friends and acquaintances. You can take your first step by casting your vote in favour of this manifesto.

Executive member, Students' Union, Saint Patrick's College, Karachi

Your cooperation and willingness to help and promote the rights of the students lie in your decision. Think conscientiously and decide with a sense of responsibility, for your own benefit. Let us join hands and work together for a prosperous and memorable action-packed year. Thanking you in anticipation. Hoping to be of better service to you.

Kazi Abdul Muktadir, Candidate for Pres.

Candidates

Ringside Results

After a full month of clipping, washing, training, halter making and running around in preparation for the 33rd Annual Macdonald College Livestock Show, the daily routine has returned to the dairy barn.

Although this year's show was not without the usual last minute catastrophes, the show went relatively smoothly for the most concerned. The aim of the show is to provide the students with an opportunity to learn about some practical skills of agriculture, those not found in the old reliable text books. The show also offers fellow students a very good chance to meet each other, and work together, because although it is a competition, many spectators commented on the high degree of closeness and teamwork amongst competitors. The show can definitely be labelled as a "FRIENDLY COMPETITION".

The swine, sheep, dairy and beef showmen were under the most skillful watch of Mr. Roy Simmons of Finch Ont. and Mr. John Beerwort of Brome Que.. Both of these gentlemen have judged our show in the past and were pleased to see an even higher calibre of show than in the past. This is a direct compliment to all participants.

Although all participants worked very hard, a few individuals stood out. The following people were champion and reserve respectively;
 Holstein: Neil Richardson-Peter Griffith
 Ayrshire: Rick Younge-Callum McKinver
 Beef: Martine Bourgeois-Vicky Hume
 Sheep: Celine Moore-Helene Cantin
 Swine: Peter Griffith-Sheila Beaudette

Sheep: Céline Moore-Hélène Cantin
 Swine: Peter Griffith-Sheila Beaudette
 Novice: Jennifer Pittet-Karen Digby
 Overall: Rick Younge-Martine Bourgeois

Along with the Livestock Show, the Livestock club was also very pleased to host the 2nd Annual Intercollegiate Judging Competition. Nine teams from six Eastern Canadian Agricultural Colleges competed in a wide cross section of classes. The overall winners were the representatives from Kemptville College, closely followed by our very own Dips and then

our degree teams. The MAC teams were composed of the following people:

Dips: Marina Steiner, Rudy Erfle, Peter Griffith and Neil Richardson

Degree: Gerald Post, Donnie Anderson, Randy Goodfellow, Jack Van Roestel

In individual high aggregates, MAC took the first three placings in the persons of Marina Steiner, Donnie Anderson and Neil Richardson who classed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank all participants in both competitions. Special thanks to all Livestock club members for all their help in organizing the show.

See you all next year!

Ann Louise Carson
 Chairman, Livestock
 Club 1980

MARCH 14th, BLUE COLLARS MEETING.



BODY HEAT

The Caribbean Students Association invites you to the annual Caribbean Dance in the CC Ballroom on Saturday, March 29th, 1980. Come and enjoy the best Caribbean music available in Montreal from "BODY HEAT" band and "MR HITS" Disco. The well-stocked bar will also include Rum Punch, and Roti and Patties will be on sale. Tickets are \$3.00 and can be obtained from any Caribbean student or from the CC Desk. It all starts at 9:00 PM.

FOOD FARMERS AND POLITICS

The politics of food is not an issue for rationalists. One's view of the giving of food aid to developing countries, the sale to these countries of high technology for agriculture and the planned over-production or under-production of food in the developed countries can not be based on fact alone. All the game, the discussion following two International Food Council slide shows at the last Ecolifestyles meeting was very sane and interesting.

One of the shows dealt with Canadian agriculture and the history of the development of the West with the monopoly position of the CP railroad and big grain elevator companies and the political movement that brought about the evolution of the Canadian Wheat Board.

The show also dealt with 'vertical integration' of companies like McCain in New Brunswick which control farmers' finances from every possible angle. Loblaws, with its parent company, Weston, is another very good example. The corporation makes a profit at every level of the processing and distribution process. And farmers are blamed for increases in the price of food.

The other show was about food politics in the world and how the development of agriculture during colonial times has been perpetuated in these countries which cannot produce enough food for their own population and have substantial acreages derobed to cash crops for the developed countries.

The film criticized the aid programs of the developed countries and their effect of making recipient countries dependent on aid, both by direct food handouts and 'aid' in the form of high technology and high yield 'Green Revolution' hybrids which require large inputs of inorganic fertilizer.

The film urged people to question government food aid programs, and also made the point that many aid programs have no chance of helping the general population while present unfair land tenure systems are practised. Technology may improve yields, but only for the farmer wealthy enough to afford it to start with. The farmer with the advan-

tage of technology is soon able to buy out his poorer neighbour, possibly leaving him unemployed, replaced by a tractor and other machinery. A labour shortage is not one of the third world.

Discussion afterwards centered around 'infiltration' of the food systems of other countries using powerful and influential people in those countries. If the minister of agriculture in a Third World country also imports John Deere equipment, the agriculture in that country will become mechanized. Government aid may amplify the problem.



Staffbox

Typing: Georges O'Shaughnessy, Jon Waterhouse, Laurent Gauthier.

Layout: Susan Ryan, Jon Waterhouse, Joy Garnett.

Graphics: Hubert Brochard, Joy Garnett.

Editor: Jon Waterhouse.

The Harvest Editor wet his pants for the second time that night, and immediately the Janitor was in to clean up the mess. What would we do without the janitor? What a pity the students can't look after themselves.

The Harvest can no longer lay out the paper after the bar closes at two. When the bar moves they cannot lay out after twelve. It's a pity the student paper can't be put together in the student building, but the CC must be locked tight as a nun's chastity belt after hours. God knows what those students might get up to!

So here's to the non-student CC, its Manager and Committee Chairperson.

La Revanche

Quand je suis redescendu dans la ville, l'herbe avait poussé haut dans les rues et les talus étaient si beaux qu'on avait envie de s'étendre et de ne rien faire que dormir et rêver jusqu'au soir.

Cependant certains signes nouveaux ne manquaient pas d'être troublants. L'herbe si belle et si neuve en pleine rue avait, par endroits, gagné les toitures inclinées et avait pénétré, silencieuse, dans les maisons par des fenêtres ouvertes.

La revanche était démesurée. Collosale. Le vent était devenu une odeur, une présence palpable, le vent avait dépassé son état, ce n'était plus une couleur, c'était quelqu'un. Je marchais de plus en plus vite quand je remarquai, à ma droite, une forme qui tout en faisant corps avec l'impressionnante atmosphère, me rappelait une forme qu'avant mon départ pour la montagne j'aurais qualifiée de tramway ou de véhicule lourd. C'était en fait un tramway devenu énorme de verdure et j'entendis des cris si aigus et si tragiques venant de l'intérieur, que je m'approchai, inconscient du danger. Le silence des environs était si dense que les cris, qui défonçaient littéralement la paroi, m'arrivaient en sourdine, à peine audibles.

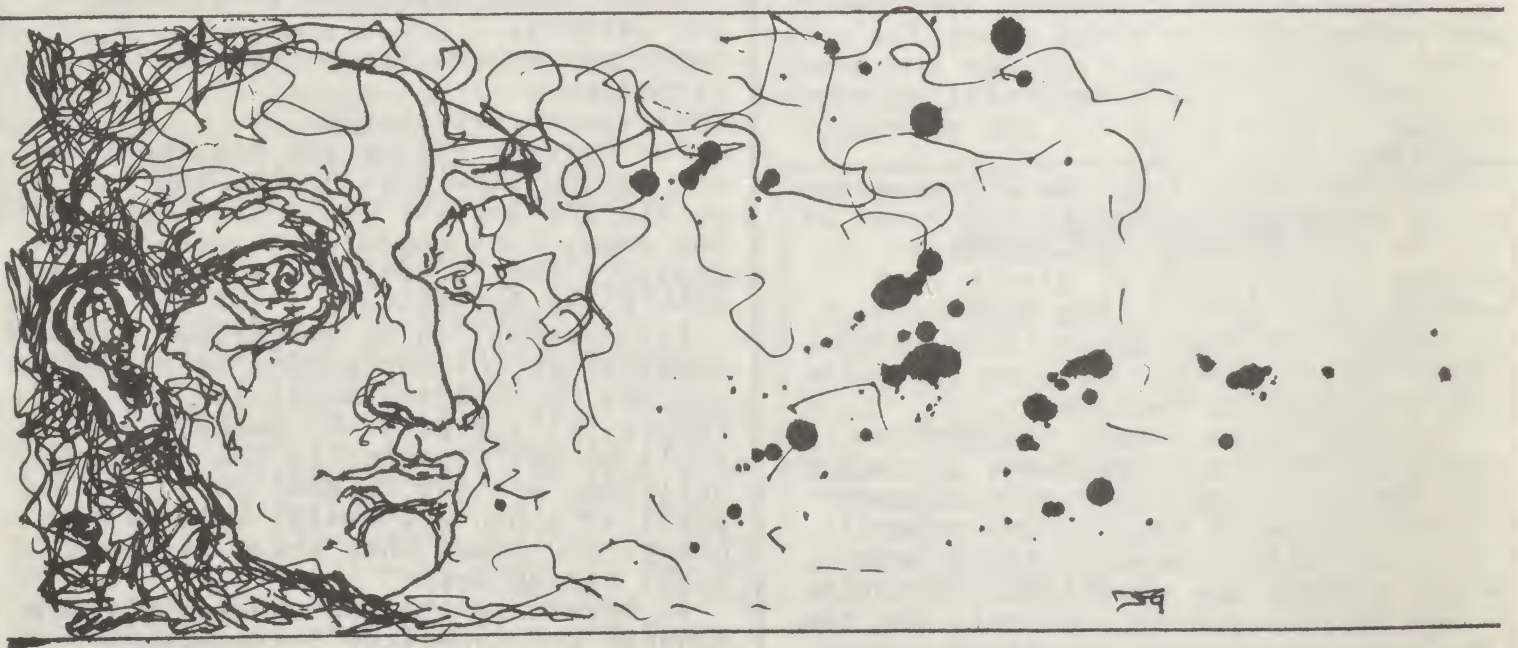
Et soudain, comme j'allais atteindre le véhicule, je me rendis compte avec hor-

reur que depuis quelques secondes, je mâchonnais de l'herbe, alors qu'à aucun moment je n'en avais cueilli. Je devins alors immobile comme une statue et pris un temps qui me parut infini à recracher ma bouchée de verdure amère.

Sans la moindre hésitation, vers le tramway où je devinais l'immonde horreur du supplice qui s'y déroulait, je commençai à marcher d'un pas vers la sortie de la ville que je devinais entre deux immenses masses vertes, dernière issue praticable de ce paisible enfer de calme et de douceur. Puis je marchais de plus en plus vite et insensiblement je me mis à courir, d'abord à longues foulées régulières, puis sans rythme, comme un fou, à m'échapper de la ville.

Je m'éveillai assis contre un mur de pierre, la tête douloureuse. Le soir était tombé. J'étais à dix milles de toute rue de toute ville possible. Un homme à cheval passa. Je lui fis signe, il me fit monter avec lui et nous allâmes jusqu'au village voisin où les rues étaient en pierre et gardaient dans leurs interstices des brins d'herbe qui me rappelèrent d'enlever ceux qui déjà verdissaient mes bottes jusqu'aux mollets. Je pus les détacher sans peine.

-de Gilles Vigneault



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Bo was doing what he always did: cleaning his fingernails with his other fingernails. He knew it annoyed people. But that wasn't why he did it. It was just a nice feeling. The soapy touch of the dead cells and dirt. He was happy. Fingernails were fun. It was a pity no one was taking any notice of him.

Shoe didn't count. No one ever counted Shoe. Nobody ever noticed if she was fat or thin, tall or short, pretty or ugly. Not that she changed from day to day. she was just Shoe. Doing everything that was expected of her in an unpredictable way that made her even more unworthy of notice.

'Why don't you go down and clean the trees,' she asked, looking at Bo.

Bo laughed. He was fun.

'They're not dirty,' he said. Clean fingernails, strip trees.

'I mean take the apples off them,' said Shoe. It was what she meant.

Bo got up from the ground and fetched the ladder, still looking at his fingernails. He came back.

'Why didn't you say strip?' he asked.

'I didn't want you to,' Shoe said without removing her sunglasses as she carried the apple bucket in front of Bo and his ladder.

Bo didn't like the Ladder. It made him feel old. He really wanted to climb the trees, but was afraid that was childish. Ladders were all part of the aging process. You could fall off them and kill yourself. That made you very old. Dead people are always old.

The first tree was decorated with clothes; a remnant of the morning. Shoe's red sandals were right at the top. Bo had put them there. Bo was fun.

Shoe had said, 'It'll be your fault if there are no fairies for the children this year.' 'What?' Oh the thistles. Shoe would pull them up if they pricked her. Her habit of stripping thoughts made her speech predictable in a way. Except she would not say what she was expected to. Bo knew this. He smiled at her and dropped an apple into her hands. It rattled slightly into the bucket. Apples were fun.

In the cellar Bo was transferring the wine into bottles. He finished putting in the last of the plastic corks, and put all the bottles on the side opposite the vegetables. Then he drew the thin line between sanity and insanity from wall to wall with a piece of chalk.

He flipped a coin to determine which side was which. The wine lost and became sanity. Bo began to walk towards the other wall along the line with pigeon steps. When he reached the other wall he stopped and turned round. Then he sighed and walked upstairs.

Shoe was sitting in a historical perspective in front of the kitchen window. Bo touched her on the cheek from behind, just as he had before.

Cobalt 40 gnawed at her legs, but she didn't notice. Bo gathered some grass from the garden and put it under Shoe's raised foot. It didn't grow. Cobalt 40 began to gnaw at that too. Bo noticed and took the grass away from the child and picked him up. The purple birthmark on the neck was beginning to fade. The boy would need a new name soon.

'What does Cobalt 40 turn into?' Bo asked Shoe, and waited for the answer he knew he would not get.

good foods naturally



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